

Sports post

HOW any spokesman for the 'Mighty' Wycombe Wanderers could have the effrontery to suggest any changes in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup is really beyond belief!

This particular proposal would penalise any team without floodlighting, irrespective of reasons. — (Cash is normally the biggest one, but in our case, and I'm sure I may be speaking for Flackwell Heath, we can't get any planning consent!).

"Ambition," they declare, "should have made these sixteen clubs, erect floodlights". — Never mind the fact that the other thirteen are all towns of over 20,000 people. — Some with 50,000!

From a Football Club that brought this same Competition into dis-repute by committing the cardinal mistake of refusing to accept their Cup and the winners medals. — That's rich!

At the end of the match they left all the lads of Thatcham Town, (one of these without adequate lighting arrangements!), humiliated, embarrassed, and very upset — this on the biggest day of the Club's history!

They'd just been beaten in the Final after extra time by footballers and then had the defeat piled upon them by an ignorant and childish display by both Club and Supporters!

What right have the Wanderers to have ANY say in the running of ANY of our Competitions?

"The Cup would become more prestigious", they say. For whom?

They should have remembered that at Chesham on that disgraceful day!

Flackwell Heath, Holmer Green, Spital Old Boys, Burnham etc., would all be delighted to play in that final — win or lose — lights or no lights!

It must be lovely sitting atop a greased pole and watch everyone else just trying to climb it! — B. C. HOOKEY
Prog. Editor, Burnham F.C.

Wycombe try again tomorrow

WHAT A WASTED JOURNEY!

MICHAEL KNOX reports

WYCOMBE Wanderers spent the best part of £1,000 by flying up to Blyth on Wednesday only to find when they got there that the F. A. Trophy second round tie against the Spartans had been called off due to a frozen pitch.

This was the second time that the tie had been postponed and, weather permitting, it will now be played tomorrow (Saturday).

So keen are the two sides to get the contest out of the way that both are considering the possibility of a Sunday fixture. Such is the expense of taking players, who have to miss a day's work, up to the north east that Wycombe officials were naturally angry at the late postponement.

Before flying up Wanderers had taken nearly every precaution to ensure that it would not be a wasted journey. Blyth arranged for the pitch to be inspected on Tuesday night by Football League referee Ken Redfern.

He declared it quite playable and so gave Wycombe the green light for their flight from Heathrow, which left at 10 o'clock next morning.

However, while they were in the air, match referee John Maxson from Ashton-under-Lyne was arriving at Blyth and expressing doubt as to whether the match could be played on the frozen rutted surface.

At 1 p.m., just an hour before the scheduled kick-off, he ruled the match could not be played. Explaining his decision, he said, "The ground is frozen and is definitely dangerous, I reckon it was dangerous even for me."

Just then Wycombe players and several officials arrived on their coach from Newcastle airport and were naturally stunned and angry at having made a fruitless and expensive journey.

Manager Andy Williams was in no doubt. "I think the pitch is dangerous. It should have been called off last night. In circumstances like these it should be called off early if there is a slight doubt, to save people travelling."

The players walked gingerly over the field, which had not been rolled because it was so frozen, although there were no icy patches. It was the unevenness that made it unplayable.

Wycombe officials John Goldsworthy and Brian Lec considered that although the pitch might produce a freak result, it was playable.

INCONSISTENT

The whole matter comes down once again to inconsistency of referees, who have been given the sole prerogative as to whether a match is on or not.

If Mr Maxson had inspected the pitch on Tuesday evening he would no doubt have called the match off there and then, as Blyth officials said that the pitch had not altered radically overnight.

A special journey by Mr Maxson on the eve of the match would have cost every party much less money. Either that or there should have been some liaison between officials as to what was and what was not playable.

Not the least annoyed person up there was your reporter who spent some 12 hours in his car on the round trip to cover the match. His feelings were admirably summed up by Andy

Williams who said, "It's a bloody nonsense."

To prevent the same happening again for the third attempt to play the match, the pitch will be inspected at 8.15 a.m. tomorrow morning. A definite decision will be made at that time. So, if it is pronounced playable, they will play, come hell or high water. Indeed that's what the pitch probably needs.

Wycombe will not have to bear all the brunt of the cost of their flight. This will be taken out of the eventual match takings, and if these do not cover the outlay, then both clubs must share the expense, up to a certain figure. So no party comes away unscathed except for the referee.

If there is play tomorrow, the Supporters Club are once again running a train to Blyth. Check with the club for details.

It leaves Wycombe at 7.58 a.m. and last week's tickets are still valid.

Cricket's win

Beaconsfield Crickets defeated Sambron 10-0 in a friendly match at Holtspur playing field. The Crickets' scorers were Bradshaw (3), Noyes (2), Lloyd (2), Newell, L'Esperance, and Noyes.